Example of Complications with the Law

1. Count Sheldon arraigned by Justice Peace
2. Agrees to plead guilty in Superior Court
3. In Superior Court is reminded of heavy punishment
4. Then asks for attorney,
5. D.A. hands over case to Federal Prohibition Agent Kriete

San Bernardino Sun June 14, 1921

Asks for Time.

"Count" Walter A. Scheldon, arrested in Big Bear Valley Saturday afternoon and charged with operating a still, changed his plan to plead guilty and receive immediate sentence when he appeared before Judge J. W. Curtis in the superior court late yesterday afternoon. Scheldon was arraigned before Justice of the Peace Edward Wall yesterday and requested that he immediately be taken to the superior court, announcing his intention to plead guilty.

When he appeared before Judge Curtis he declared he did not want an attorney and wanted to enter a plea of guilty at once. When reminded by the court, however, that the offense with which he is charged is sometimes punishable by a heavy jail sentence, Scheldon changed his mind about an immediate plea of guilty and asks until next Monday to secure an attorney and receive legal advise as to the action he should take. Scheldon, it is reported, expected to be fined.

"Telephone Kriete to come and get h,m," said District Attorney T. W. Duckworth as he left the court room. Scheldon shuddered. Kriete is the federal prohibition agent.

In justice court Scheldon said that he hoped that Jack Lankershim never learned to what a purpose he had put two of his barrels.

Scheldon Pleads Guilty

San Bernardino Sun
June 21, 1921

"Count" to Plead

"Count" Walter A. Schelden, alleged to have been the operator of the most complete moonshine outfit yet found in San Bernardino County, will appear in the superior court to enter a plea this morning. Schelden, who was arrested by Sheriff W. A. Shay in Big Bear Valley, has been in the county jail since his arrest. He expected Bear Valley friends to furnish his bail, but none came to his rescue. He now threatens "expose" his former "friends."

LA Times
July 3, 1921

FINE COUNT FOR MAKING BOOZE.

[LOCAL CORRESPONDENT.]

BIG BEAR VALLEY, July 2.—Count Walter Anton Leopold Gernsheim, charged under the name of Walter A Scheldon with handling of liquor in Bear Valley, was sentenced by Judge Rex. B. Goodcell at San Bernardino to pay a fine of $300 or spend 150 days in jail He did not have the money, but friends paid the fine for him.

Scheldon Gets Caught a *Second Time!!!*

San Bernardino Sun
May 3, 1922

Walter "Count" Scheldon was lodged in the county jail yesterday on a charge of selling intoxicating liquor in Big Bear Valley. He was arrested once before on a similar charge, according to jail records.

San Bernardino Sun
Dec 9, 1922

FIND SCHELDON GUILTY OF DRY LAW VIOLATION

Jury Returns Verdict of Conviction in Ten Minutes

GIVEN SIX MONTHS

Declares Innocence and Denies Testimony of Witnesses

"Count" Walter Scheldon, long suspected by officers as being Big Bear Valley's leading trafficker in moonshine whiskey, was found guilty yesterday by a jury that deliberated less than 10 minutes.

Schelden is found Guilty

- Schelden receives six months sentence
- Approximately 80% of those tried and convicted in prohibition charges received only a fine and no jail time.

Scheldon, displaying no surprise at the jury's verdict, asked that judgment be imposed immediately and before the jurors had left the courtroom, Judge J. W. Curtis sentenced Scheldon to serve a sentence of six months in the county jail.

The speed with which the wheels of justice whirled yesterday was striking in contrast to the numerouh delays in the case. Scheldon was arrested four months ago. With the judge on the bench, the attorneys in court and a venire of 50 men from which to select a jury waiting, Scheldon failed to appear at the hour of the trial two months ago. After the venire had been excused, Scheldon arrived with a story of a balky flivver and his $500 bail was not forfeited.